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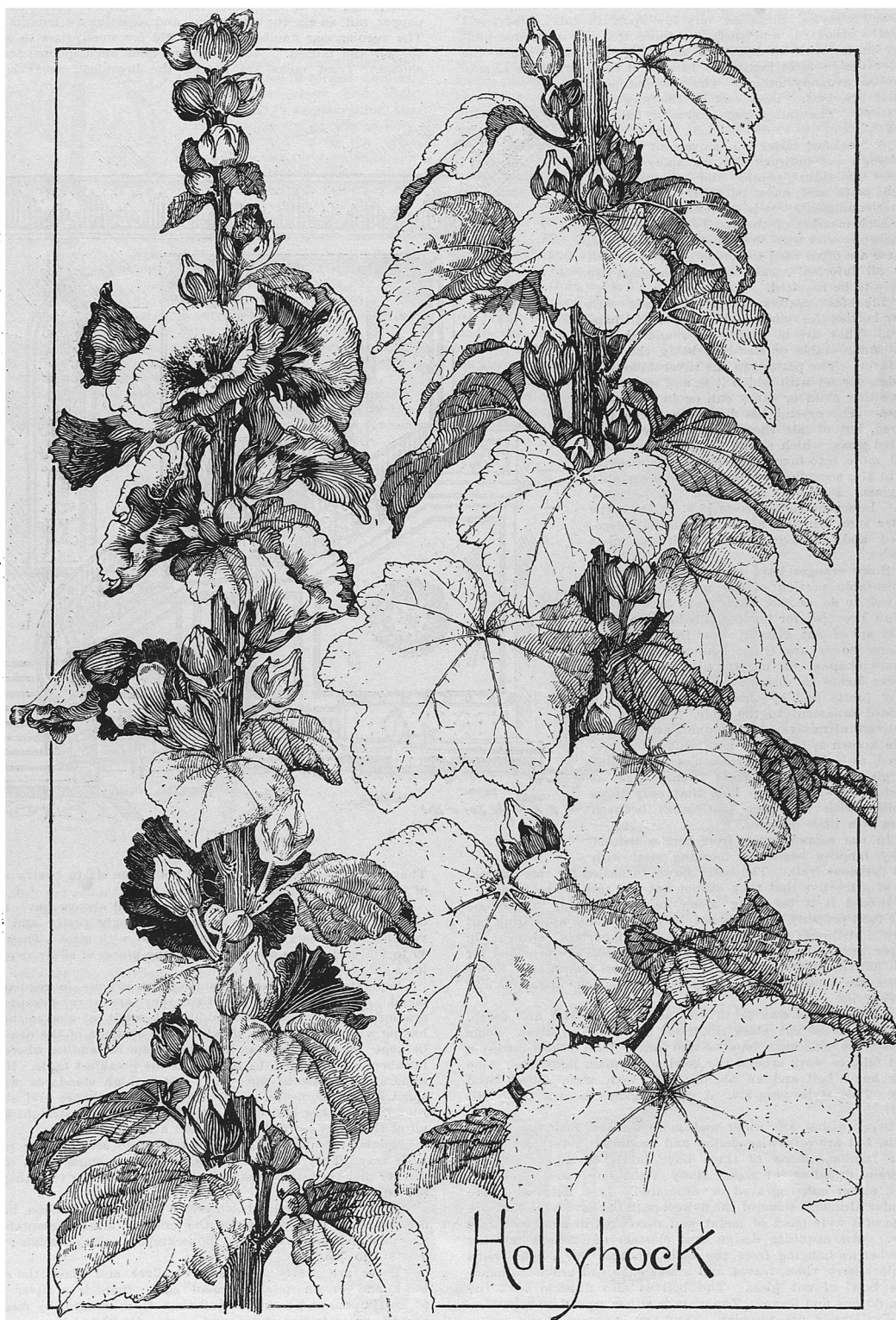
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STUDIES IN PLANT FORM—THE HOLLYHOCK, BY GEORGE C. HAITÉ.

PLANT STUDIES--THE HOLLYHOCK.

ONE of the most striking of those old-fashioned garden flowers, says Mr. George Charles Haité, that have lately derived benefit from the æsthetic craze is the Hollyhock, whose tapering, column like growth, with its succession of flower-spikes, is now largely cultivated, and contributes much to the beauty of our gardens. There are both single and double-flowered varieties, which have a most extensive color-range, graduating from white and pale yellow to deep claret and almost black. The common species are indigenous to China, but, though natives of warm countries, are yet sufficiently hardy to thrive in England, and very frequently attain heights of from twelve to fifteen feet. The leaves have long pedicels, and spring alternately round

the stem. They are of a beautiful palmate shape, with large serrated angular lobes. There are seven or nine principal veins, and the body of the leaf is broken up into numberless spaces by a multitude of smaller veins, forming a reticulated surface. Although the leaf-form varies considerably, the five and seven-lobed may be considered distinct, the latter being the most characteristic (Fig. 1). At the base of the leaf-stalk there are large and well-developed stipules, which fade off

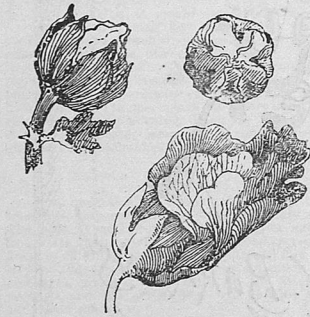


FIG. 4.—DOUBLE CALYX.

as the leaf matures (Fig. 2). The buds spring from the axils of the leaves, either solitary or in clusters of two and three (Fig. 3). The calyx is double, the outer part usually being divided half

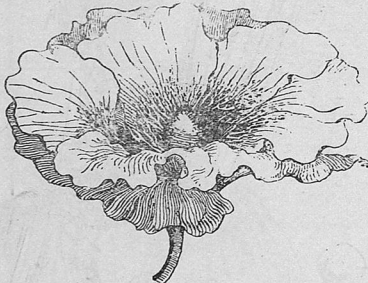
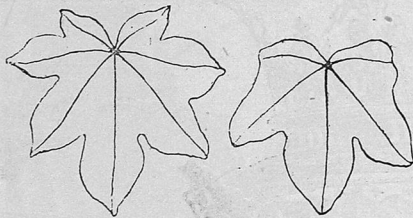


FIG. 5.—PETAL AND FLOWER.



FIGS. 1 & 2.—LEAF FORMS AND STIPULES.

way down into six parts, persistent and very spreading; the inner cut half way into five parts, larger, and also persistent (Fig. 4). Occasionally a divergence occurs, for seven and even nine divisions may be found in the calyx.

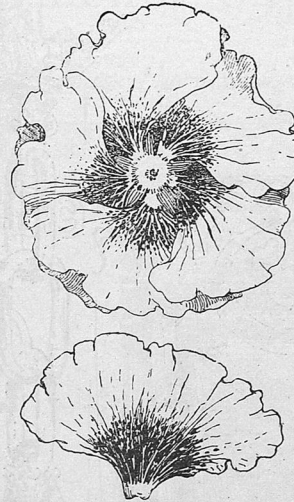


FIG. 5.—PETAL AND FLOWER.

The corolla consists of five spreading petals, with waved and crinkled edges, having towards the base markings of a deeper color. The petals are streaked with a lighter local color, and raised, causing a somewhat rough texture. From the centre of the flower rises the cylindrical-shaped pale yellow pistil, surrounded by numerous twisted stamens of corresponding length (Fig. 5.)

The habit of the Hollyhock restricts its application to those positions where upright growths are possible and judicious. It is essentially a flower adapted for the embellishment of long and narrow upright panels or screens, etc., and when properly treated in such positions looks, as it really is, far more suitable than the weak distribution of such growths as the honeysuckle, clematis, or spray of Virginia creeper, which are so commonly used, and not unfrequently made to run out at the sides, suggesting that the ornament had been cut from a larger piece. These objects are readily adaptable for the covering of large and irregular spaces, but the Hollyhock, Foxglove, Canterbury Bell, and many other upright growths, are necessarily of restricted application; therefore it would seem more fitting to select positions in harmony with their forms.

A TRINKET box takes the shape of the moon in her first quarter; the top is of pearl; the open arabesque work of sides is so finely executed in silver as to bear the appearance of flagree. A small boudoir mirror is set on a gold plated flounder.

In the centre of a lady's work table is a gilt brass lamp stand bearing a tulip shade to which a savage bronze dog, in the act of endeavoring to break bounds, is attached by a chain.

TILES of glass resembling real mosaic, and executed by a process described elsewhere in our columns, figure among decorative novelties.

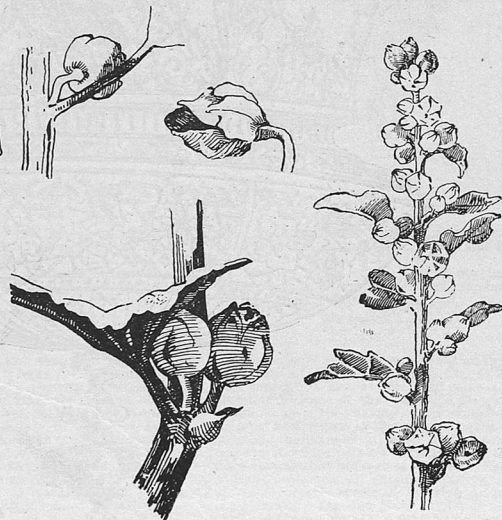


FIG. 3.—BUD AND BUD-GROWTH.